

10 Feb 73

Astos

VN: I support the gov.

We're in it, and to get out without accomplishing what we set out, would mean all those lives died for nothing.

... To free the South, like we want it to do ... South Korea, South Korea ... and South Vietnam ...

Adams

Papers were supposedly stolen — all does that even want to be S or C — and were published in NYT

Thy said that...

It was very difficult to discern anything from the...

Thy really didn't say much...

Not the feeling that while thy were Confidential thy really weren't that important.

Very tense...

Saw "What's Up, Doc."

I find the US has been in the war too long;
however, I agree with the action of the Pres
in ending the war

(What action?) The gradual withdrawal,
& VNZ. (The recent bombing?) I agree
with that.

I don't the method used has been
as expedient as possible in getting out...

Should be all or nothing - either totally
involved, or forget about it and leave.

My first pref. would have been never to get
involved; once we were involved, to win
it.

Now: favor the Pres' policy.

In honesty, I might tend to favor someone
who agreed with me over one who didn't.

I believe they have withheld info - but
not too much. On the surface it will seem
something we should know, but we don't have
the whole picture.

Ortman

I wish that the war will be over That
it would end.

Daily

"I don't see any guiltless."

DE: Employee of Randal — took, or stole, or
whatever word you want to use...

gave the to some guy from Alaska...
controversy over whether nat. sec. was
jeopardized...

Hadn't made up my mind whether they'd
done the right thing or the wrong thing...

If I'm supposed to believe what I read
or see on TV, I would have to say he did it...

... I wasn't there, I couldn't prove that
he did what they say, couldn't positively say —

People

DE: He must be a very intelligent man, or he
wouldn't have been kind by Road, a thick-Talk

Thy just put men in these rooms and thy
thick — about how to improve the county...

I would go thin-cragg myself...

VV: I was afraid you would ask me that.

(Why afraid?) To tell

Maybe I have a slight feeling we shouldn't
be there, but on the other hand, the aid +
you know what thy're doing; and thy don't
absolutely, positively have to tell us everything,
because how can you win if the enemy knows
everything about your strategy?

Some people say we should never have sent
the boys over there, but we did...

I would like very much if thy would sign the
peace agreement... and bring the POWs home.
both parties involved

That's it...

Elman

CAT

Road about Russo big incarcerated —
withholding testimony...

papers allowed to publish...
obtained from RAND

wg he was studying this, I don't know

RAND: said he was in the right...

VN: I think it was a terrible mistake —
(held opinion) since '65 — I don't ^{see} we're
getting anywhere, helping anyone,...

I'd like to see it ended — as way it's
possible — I doubt it'd be a military
victory — peace negot. seem the only way...

Terrible waste — of men & material
I believe there's a lot of info big withheld — not
only on VN but on many subjects.

JURY

Out of (100?) jurors

1. 1 has admitted reading contents of PP.
2. ^{about} All want out of VN; ~~some~~
(perhaps 1, 2, have indicated an most stay, Pres' course
is right...) [Adams: the afternoon.]
3. Nearly all have changed the view on VN.
4. Most (who have a view) accepted, or still accept,
"Win or Get Out".
5. None thinks gov gives out "too much" info.
6. Almost none needs LAT.
7. None - till this afternoon - mentioned any connection with
Congress (till Daily)
(Those who "excuse themselves" from panel
as prejudiced may have stronger views
in support of gov; i.e. to be so "for
out" as to support bombing now may
go along with a consciousness of prejudice
against us.
Many: "stupid")
8. Nearly all - who had a view - connect it case
with giving to newspapers ("when it first came out")

Baltadene

VN ✓

✓ I know

At first my involvement was, as a soldier, being obedient, just doing what I was told - and I thought I was doing the right thing.

Now, I've come home - I've changed my thinking - I don't think we should be there. I don't condone our gov's actions - but I don't condone this, either.

At first, we were going to stop the spread of Com, to people who didn't want it.

But the extent it's been carried out, and the way it's been carried out, I don't agree - we should leave it to our elected officials to (get us out).

It should have been ended a long time ago - either ended it, or gotten out. [Now] I think we should get out.

(On withholding info) "Casualty reports - light, moderate, heavy - they didn't tell real (usual) casualty figures. [They would pick the period, or the unit, so as to minimize rate] I thought

it unfair — that the people did not know what was happening (on casualties).

10 JAN 73

Pittman: seems to me, sometimes, if our economy is bad, and there's a war going on, we seem to get involved — to help an economy.

But after economy got better, I expected them to get out — when they didn't, I thought...

Maybe there's another purpose involved — maybe it's for the purpose they stated at the outset — that they're trying to defend the freedom of the people over there.

Having been in military myself, I know there's some things you just don't tell the public...

Vasquez: Someone had gotten into the Pentagon and taken some papers.

I don't like to be in war... No one likes to be in war...

Don't feel the gov has withheld info... open to much

Cashuba

taking the papers and reproducing the ...
When it first happened ... when it came
out in the papers

Could it be ~~that~~ true ... that they're keeping
us that much in the dark?

VN: Yes, I think I do - in fact I know I do. I
think we should bring our boys home.

I feel like they're deceiving us, from
what I've read

I don't think it was fought like a war
should be fought ("you don't send a squadron
out to take a hill one day, and ~~send~~ ^{give} it back to the enemy
the next day")

We're going to have to work awful hard to
keep our dignity, to save our face ...

[ALL THESE PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED -
LIKE ME! (I went further - but I went to
VN, read PD...)]

What ~~does~~ you...

What if everyone...?

the citizen

You are over-protected against the risk of excessive info being given to the public; the threats to career (& press), the precautions on handling...

your only protection against the risk of not getting enough info is the freedom & initiative of the press (& Congress) and the conscience of officials willing to risk their careers, and who recognize the public's right and need to know.

Any bureaucracy will limit info to what helps it and its boss, if it can.

Need to counteract extravagant abuse of Gov's secrecy power, censorship.

Frank & customary said: I do not feel they are guilty.

The price to a democracy of keeping secrets by these means, on this scale, is the heart of our form of gov: the price is democracy. DO YOU BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE A DEMOCRATICALLY-DETERMINED WAR POLICY?

Baltadano

Costa Rica.

Now junior in UC, buine. Bus. Ad.
(earlier Harbor; Econ.)

12-year-old son.

Wife HS: some coll. credits.

Pittman

Ford Auto Assembly 20½ years.

Front-end assembly.

Now plant control.

b. Columbia, Miss.

HS; 1½ years at Columbia + Chicago College in Cal
in TV repair.

Wife: supervisor dept. of social welfare, county.

daughters 13 8th g.

16 - HS

18 - studying psychology.